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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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DOD Reaffirms U.S. Position On N. Vietnam Air Strikes

The Department of Defense has reaffirmed this country's position that no U.S. aircraft have been ordered to strike any civilian targets in North Vietnam at any time.

A statement, signed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) Phil Goulding, disclosed that all reasonable care is taken to avoid civilian casualties.

Military Targets Only

He said U.S. policy is to program military targets only, and there has been no deviation from this policy.

"We have no knowledge that any pilot has disobeyed his orders," Goulding stated, "nor deliberately attacked dikes or any other non-military targets in North Vietnam.

"It is impossible to avoid all damage to civilian areas," he continued, "particularly in view of the concerted effort of the North Vietnamese to emplace anti-aircraft and critical military targets among the civilian population.

"In view of the great strength of U.S. air power, it is patently obvious that the damage would be very much greater, and, indeed, unmistakable, had the U.S. deliberately attacked civilian targets in Vietnam."

His statement was directed toward questions concerning air strikes in the Nam Dinh area where civilian casualties had been reported.

He said the U.S. has flown more than 50 missions in 1965-66 against military targets in the Nam Dinh area. This city is the third largest in North Vietnam, and a major trans-shipment point along the Hanoi-Denh Hoi rail line. He also pointed out that there are more than 500 anti-aircraft weapons in the Nam Dinh air defense area.

U.S. Pilots 'Magnificent'

U.S. pilots flying strike missions against military targets in North Vietnam "are performing magnificently," Goulding explained, and "under the most stringent controls in the history of air warfare."

He noted that more than 450 U.S. aircraft have been shot down over North Vietnam. Goulding explained: "Many of the pilots have been rescued by the unbelievable bravery of air rescue units. Many have died. Some have been captured. These men are doing an incredible job for their country."

MITCHELL'S MEDALS—William Mitchell Jr. (center) donates the medals of his famous father, aviator Maj. Gen. William Mitchell, to the Air Force Museum. Gen. John P. McConnell, USAF Chief of Staff (right), officially accepts the gift before turning it over to Col. William F. Curry (left), director of the museum, for future display. Presentation was in connection with the enshrinement of "Billy" Mitchell into the Aviation Hall of Fame, Dayton, Ohio.

Army Opens New 15-Month Reserve Enlistment Program

A 15-month enlistment program in U. S. Army Reserve with concurrent active duty call for Vietnam service is now open to some prior-service and reserve component enlisted personnel.

The program applies to former Army enlisted without current reserve status and former active Army personnel now in National Guard or Army Reserve.

Non-Reserve status personnel must apply within three years of last separation. Guard-Reserve personnel are not eligible if assigned to Control Group for more than three years without MOS training.

Applicants must be fully MOS qualified for existing Vietnam requirements and must have served at least 21 months' continuous active duty. Active duty periods for training will not be credited.

Those accepted will hold grade held when last separated from active duty, or current grade held in guard or reserve. Program becomes effective when DA Circular 601-19 is field distributed this month.

Accepted personnel will serve 12 months in Vietnam. Other time will be used for any needed refresher training, leave, travel and processing.

Washington Memos

HIGHEST ARMY ENLISTED promotion quota since Korean War has been released to major commanders for January. Quotas, by grade, are 84 E-9s; 346 E-8s; 1,439 E-7s; 3,514 E-6s; 32,031 E-5s; and 78,942 E-4s. This reflects about 11,000 increase over December's 105,735. November figure was 71,419.

COMMANDANT OF MARINE CORPS, Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., is now visiting Marines in western Pacific, including Vietnam. This is Gen. Greene's fifth trip to Vietnam. He is scheduled to return Jan. 11.

HOLDERS OF GI Insurance will be paid $211 million in dividends during 1967, according to Veterans Administration. World War II veterans who have retained their insurance will receive about $46 on anniversary date of their policy. World War I veterans will receive about $76.

CASH GRANT OF $25,000 has been made to League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva to assist in massive new relief program to help South Vietnam refugees. Program will include emergency distribution of food and clothing to some 250,000 persons newly-arrived in refugee camps. League will also assist South Vietnamese Red Cross in amputee centers opened to aid civilian wounded.

COMPANY C MEMBERS of Army's 4th Inf. Div. uncovered enemy food cache of 35 gallons canned fish and more than one ton of rice in RVN.

NEW YEAR'S EVE for 12 damage controlmen of Navy's USS Perkins was spent fighting fire aboard Panamanian freighter. Volunteer team worked 12 hours before fire was brought under control. They are credited with significant contribution in saving freighter.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AND Air Force Exchange Service will be officially relocated Jan. 16 from 8 W. 14th St., New York City to the Oak Cliff Bank Tower, 400 S. Zangs Blvd., Dallas, Tex. 75208.

BEGINNING IN MARCH, 10 Japanese MT-135 sounding rockets and 10 U.S. Arcas or boosted-Dart sounding rockets will be launched from NASA's Wallops, Va., Station. The joint meteorological rocket launchings are being made to obtain comparison data on the various payloads and operational characteristics of the rockets, cycles of wind and temperature in the stratosphere.

PHAN RANG UNIT in Vietnam, the 352d Tactical Fighter Sq., has flown 2,000 combat sorties. Unit has 3,238 flying hours in three months.

$6.5 MILLION firm, fixed-price contract for 4,400 four-door six-passenger, commercial sedans awarded to General Motors Corp. GMC will receive similar $1.8 million contract for 1,028 commercial wagons.

HIGHEST FINAL GRADE achieved by a ship undergoing refresher training in 1966 was made by U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Basewood, a buoy tender homeported in Pearl Harbor. Basewood completed annual refresher training with Fleet Training Group, Pearl Harbor, with mark of 91.77 and rating of excellent.

FIRST CONTINGENT OF Army's 2d Civil Affairs Company, Ft. Gordon, Ga., has arrived at Vung Tau, South Vietnam. About 15 percent of personnel are serving second tour in Vietnam. Second contingent is scheduled to arrive early this year.

MEMBERS OF ARMED forces in Vietnam carried on charitable spirit of holiday season. At Cam Ranh Bay, for instance, Air Force men of 555th Civil Engineering Sq. hosted party for 165 children at nearby village. Contributions bought 500 toys and plenty of food for party.

AN AIR FORCE officer has been appointed to new position, Chief, Office of Information, Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Lt. Col. Douglas L. Grantham Jr. was first assigned to Exchange Service in July 1963, specializing in management analysis. He directed development of data processing procedures used at Area Support Centers.

TEACHING OF THE first complete military course in maintenance, repair and operation of earth-based equipment used in defense satellite communications systems is underway at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. Students accepted for the 23-week course must be qualified radio, microwave or radar repairmen.

COMMAND CONTROL FOR tactical Army communications will be provided by newly-activated 7th Army Communications Command, Mannheim, Germany.

A POWERFUL JET engine has been ground-run successfully on gelled fuel at FAA's National Aviation Facilities Experimental Center at Atlantic City, N.J., moving a step closer to possible in-flight testing of the fuel in an aircraft. Tests are part of a project to find ways to reduce fire hazard in aircraft accidents.

TACTICAL AIR COMMAND has developed a Personnel Readiness, Exercise and Simulation System (PRESS) which is now operational. PRESS uses latest computer technology to provide current management information on TAC personnel mobility posture, enabling command to respond quickly to operational contingencies, exercises and force rotations. TAC is developing system for use by other commands.

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LOADING UP—Men of the 25th Infantry Div. load mortar rounds aboard a UH-1D helicopter during Operation "Paul Revere IV" near Pleiku, RVN.

Accelerated Pilot Training Program Begun in Air Force

An accelerated program is underway by the Air Force to provide 3,247 new pilots annually, compared to 1,969 trained during FY66 and 487 more than the projected total for FY67.

Air Force also said it has added Randolph AFB, Tex., to the bases conducting Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT).

Training is presently conducted at Craig AFB, Ala.; Vance AFB, Okla.; Moody AFB, Ga.; Williams AFB, Ariz. and Reese, Webb and Laughlin AFBs, all in Texas.

Eight classes are trained annually at each base.

Randolph will begin UPT this summer.

The program to increase pilot production began when an additional 52 officer students entered training with Class 68-D in December, with graduation in December 1967.

Officials said the increased training will require additional aircraft and about 300 more instructor pilots.

To meet these increased requirements, officials said, Air Force has been authorized increased manpower of 891 officers, 2,472 enlisted personnel and 769 civilians.

The 53-week UPT course consists of 30 flying hours in the Cessna T-41 (conducted by civilian contractors near UPT bases), 90 hours in the Cessna T-37 jet trainer and 120 hours in the supersonic Northrop T-38 "Talon."

Additionally, students receive one week of pre-flight training, 357 hours of academics and 236 hours of officer training.

Cost of the increased training, including any new equipment, is estimated to be about $300 million over a five-year period. It costs about $76,588 to train one pilot under the UPT program.

Atomic Energy Comm. Issues 20th Anniversary Report

The Atomic Energy Commission's 1966 budget was divided almost equally between weapons and peaceful uses for the first time in 20 years, according to AEC Chairman Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg.

Chairman Seaborg, in a year-end statement marking AEC's 20th anniversary, spoke of important national and international accomplishments. He said in all of the peaceful cooperation there had been no neglect of national defense.

"The nation has a nuclear navy of submarine and surface ships and a strong, diversified arsenal of nuclear weapons. It is my fervent hope, however, that discussions on a non-proliferation treaty and an arms control agreement will soon lead to a successful conclusion."

He said it is difficult to overstate the importance of nuclear electric power to the well-being of human society. "A future world living in peace and enjoying the fruits of advancing technology will greatly depend on the ready availability of inexpensive electric power."

The chairman said the past year was a coming of age of many programs, "but particularly nuclear electric power." Fifty-five percent of all the new steam-electric generating capacity announced by U.S. utility companies in 1966 was nuclear.

Programs promising great benefits for the next 20 years include a nuclear space engine and a dual purpose nuclear plant that will desalt sea water and power electric generators. The engine has been successfully ground tested and money has been allocated for the nuclear plant near Los Angeles.

Major steps to advance fundamental knowledge the past year were dedication of three new research facilities at Oak Ridge and site selection for the world's largest atom smasher.

Social Security Deductions Increased .2% January 1

An increase in Social Security payroll deductions to 4.4 percent from 4.2 of taxable income began Jan. 1 as the second in eight projected boosts to cover added costs of medicare.

Increases will continue until a 5.65 percentage is reached in 1987.

Along with each monthly increased percentage is a higher annual cutoff figure.

The higher rates began in 1963 with a 3.625 percentage and an annual maximum of $174. In 1966 it went to 4.2 percent and $277.20 maximum. It will be 4.4 percent and $290.40 in 1697-68, and 4.9 percent and $323.40 for 1969-72.

Fire Losses Cut 98.5% In AF European Program

A fire prevention program conducted by Air Force units in Europe has produced a 98.5 percent reduction in losses over a three-year period.

In Fiscal Year 1963, the Air Force installations experienced about 200 fires for a loss of nearly $4 million.

During FY66, fire losses declined to $60,000. For the first six months in FY67 losses were only $4,600.

As part of a long-range plan to combat the high loss rate, U.S. Air Forces in Europe has a "priority correction" program. Since last February the program has resulted in 1,847 deficiencies being corrected.

Under the plan, facilities are upgraded to an acceptable fire protection standard, including replacement of deficient electrical wiring, removal of low density combustibles, and installation of automatic fire detection and reporting systems.

Army's 25th Inf. Div. Conducts 'Ambush' School

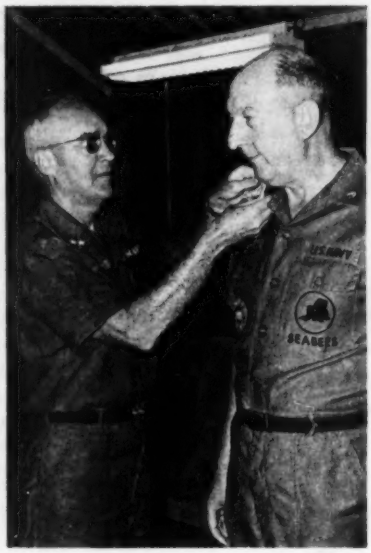
The 25th Infantry Division is conducting an extensive training course in ambush techniques and patrolling procedures.

Termed "To Kill a Tiger, Learn the Ways of a Tiger," the 50-hour training course is held at the Division's base camp at Cu Chi, South Vietnam.

Units of platoon size are "pulled back" from combat areas to attend the academy.

The course is designed to teach soldiers of the division new methods in hit and run warfare tactics and increase their effectiveness in combat.

Most of the instruction is centered around different possible contacts with the Viet Cong, including enemy ambush, sniper attack, chance contact and encounter.



NEW STARS—RAdm. Norvell G. Ward, USN, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, pins the stars of rank on newly-promoted RAdm. Paul E. Seufer, CEC, USN. Adm. Seufer assumed command of the Third Naval Construction Brigade in the same ceremony at Da Nang, RVN.

Army, Air Force Work Smoothly On Caribou Aircraft Turnover

The Air Force has assumed control of Army Caribou OV-2 aircraft for use on short hauls in quick response to needs of field commanders.

To meet the Jan. 1 turnover Air Force crews were integrated into the Army Caribou operations in Vietnam.

Mechanics of both services have been working hand-in-hand, and crew chiefs and pilots of the Air Force have been cross-training with Army counterparts.

About 1,600 officers and enlisted men will make up the proposed six operating and six maintenance squadrons to handle the new mission for the Air Force.

The Caribou is capable of hauling 5,000 pounds of cargo or 34 fully-equipped combat troops. It has a range of 1,179 miles.

New Explosive Developed For Lunar Astronauts

Astronauts will carry charges of a newly-developed explosive, hexanitrostilbene, to provide information about the moon's crust after they make their first landing.

The explosive, labeled HNS, was developed by Dr. Kathryn G. Shipp, Chemistry Research Department, Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Md.

Astronauts will place the charges at strategic locations, where they will be detonated by command from Earth within a few months to a year later. This is part of an active NASA seismic experiment.

Canadian V/STOL Under U.S. Tri-Service Testing

Limited flight evaluation of Canada's CL-84, tilt-wing V/STOL utility aircraft will be conducted this month by U. S. services at an air facility in Montreal to determine the aircraft's military potential.

The tri-service evaluation, under U. S. Army management, will require about 20 flight hours including tactical mission and rescue operation examinations.

Army has supported the aircraft's development and loaned four T-53 engines to Canada toward furthering military application of V/STOL systems.

Army Buys Vietnamese Produce for Troop Use

Army's 1st Logistical Command is purchasing fresh vegetables and fruits from Vietnamese farmers in the Dalat area for troop use in Vietnam.

Command personnel inspect and purchase the food before it is rail shipped to Phan Rang for further air transport to destination points.

Plans call for similar local purchase programs in the Saigon and delta areas of South Vietnam.

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